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Tender

## **ACES Academies trust ~ Catering Tender**

ACES Academies Trust  
Hinchbrook School  
Cromwell Academy  
Godmanchester Bridge Academy  
Godmanchester Community Academy  
Spaldwick Primary School

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-003739

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-04dba8

Published 4 February 2025, 7:05pm

### **Section I: Contracting authority**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

ACES Academies Trust

Brampton Road

Huntingdon

PE29 3BN

#### **Email**

[tenders@litmuspartnership.co.uk](mailto:tenders@litmuspartnership.co.uk)

#### **Telephone**

+44 1276673880

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKH12 - Cambridgeshire CC

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.acesacademies.co.uk/>

**I.1) Name and addresses**

Hinchingbrooke School

Brampton Road

Huntingdon

PE29 3BN

**Email**

[tenders@litmuspartnership.co.uk](mailto:tenders@litmuspartnership.co.uk)

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKH12 - Cambridgeshire CC

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.hinchingbrookeschool.net/>

**I.1) Name and addresses**

Cromwell Academy

Parkway

Huntingdon

PE29 6JA

**Email**

[tenders@litmuspartnership.co.uk](mailto:tenders@litmuspartnership.co.uk)

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKH12 - Cambridgeshire CC

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.cromwellacademy.com/>

**I.1) Name and addresses**

Godmanchester Bridge Academy

Butcher Drive, Godmanchester

Huntingdon

PE29 2NL

**Email**

[tenders@litmuspartnership.co.uk](mailto:tenders@litmuspartnership.co.uk)

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKH12 - Cambridgeshire CC

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.godmanchesterbridge.co.uk/>

**I.1) Name and addresses**

Godmanchester Community Academy

Park Lane, Godmanchester

Huntingdon

PE29 2AG

**Email**

[tenders@litmuspartnership.co.uk](mailto:tenders@litmuspartnership.co.uk)

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKH12 - Cambridgeshire CC

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.godmanchester.cambs.sch.uk/>

**I.1) Name and addresses**

Spaldwick Primary School

Royston Avenue, Spaldwick

Huntingdon

PE28 0TH

**Email**

[tenders@litmuspartnership.co.uk](mailto:tenders@litmuspartnership.co.uk)

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKH12 - Cambridgeshire CC

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.spaldwickschool.org.uk/>

**I.2) Information about joint procurement**

The contract involves joint procurement

**I.3) Communication**

Access to the procurement documents is restricted. Further information can be obtained at

<https://litmustms.co.uk/respond/2BD9M55V9X>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted to the above-mentioned address

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Body governed by public law

**I.5) Main activity**

Education

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## **Section II: Object**

### **II.1) Scope of the procurement**

#### **II.1.1) Title**

ACES Academies trust ~ Catering Tender

#### **II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 55524000 - School catering services

#### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

#### **II.1.4) Short description**

ACES Academies Trust currently comprises one large secondary School (Hinchingsbrooke School) and four primary school (Cromwell Academy, Godmanchester Bridge Academy, Godmanchester Community Academy and Spaldwick Primary school), all situated on the western approaches to Huntingdon and within a 5-mile radius.

#### **II.1.5) Estimated total value**

Value excluding VAT: £2,500,000

#### **II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: No

### **II.2) Description**

#### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKH12 - Cambridgeshire CC

Main site or place of performance

Cambridgeshire CC

#### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

ACES Academies Trust currently comprises one large secondary School (Hinchingsbrooke

School) and four primary school (Cromwell Academy, Godmanchester Bridge Academy, Godmanchester Community Academy and Spaldwick Primary school), all situated on the western approaches to Huntingdon and within a 5-mile radius.

All schools within the Trust offer an environment for students to flourish and achieve their full potential through creativity. The schools have facilities constructed within the last 5 years through to a Grade 1 listed property at Hinchingsbrooke School dating back to the mediaeval times.

We estimate the annual Contract turnover to be in excess of £500k which involves the feeding of over 3,000 pupils per day.

This is the first time that the Trust has been able to bundle its catering service to one supplier (currently there are 3 incumbent suppliers) and the Trust is keen to fully understand through this process both the commercial and operational advantages of having five schools under the same diligent and imaginative catering partner.

The tender project is seeking to appoint a Contractor with skill and expertise to thrive within the mix of primary and secondary feeding, of pupils and staff, and whose initiative and innovation will be evident throughout the ITT process and beyond.

The duration of the contract being offered is initially for three years commencing on 1 August 2025 and concluding on 31 July 2028. There will be an option to extend the contract for a further two years by mutual agreement.

At this stage we anticipate that the contract will operate as a Guaranteed Performance Contract, with the successful Contractor offering the Trust a guaranteed return / cost per annum for the provision of core catering services at each school. Sovereignty of the cash tariff/ parent selling price is to remain with the Trust for the duration of this contract.

The current contract term for Hinchingsbrooke was assisted by a large capital investment from the incumbent caterer to provide equipment and fabric for a new dining hall facility and although there are no capital projects like this in any of the five schools, there could be a need for improved prime cooking equipment in the kitchens across the estate which could be funded via contractor.

Hence, inward capital investment is important and contractors at ITT stage, will be requested to submit outline plans and funding options for this project. As stated, the initial contract period would be 3 years, but the school will welcome proposals for investment options for longer contract tenures, for example 5 or 7 years. This will be discussed in more detail with shortlisted companies at the site meeting.

The contract will cover the scope for the provision of all catering services within the Schools of the Trust, which also includes all hospitality and free issue requirements, which

are to be recharged on consumption at “net” food cost only.

Bidding contractors with prior knowledge of Hinchingsbrooke may remember some additional Hospitality requirements to support the Wedding and Events business at Hinchingsbrooke house – but this element will not be in scope of this process.

It is expected that menus will feature and utilise products in season when available.

Customer engagement will be fundamental to the continuous improvement in the service provision and within your tender response your methodology to this will need to be detailed along with examples of where this has been undertaken within similar contracts recently.

The successful contractor should have similar operations within the local area thus ensuring that the Operational Management Team responsible for the contract is available for regular unplanned visits and support for the contract, and that coverage for any planned or unplanned leave from within the establishment staffing structure can be easily provided.

See SQ Document for more information

#### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

#### **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £2,500,000

#### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Start date

1 August 2025

End date

31 July 2030

This contract is subject to renewal

No

#### **II.2.9) Information about the limits on the number of candidates to be invited**



Envisaged minimum number: 5

Maximum number: 10

Objective criteria for choosing the limited number of candidates:

A minimum of 5 suppliers and a maximum of 10 suppliers will be taken forward to the tender stage of the process. Where less than 5 suppliers meet the minimum standards, only those that meet the minimum standards will be taken through to the tender stage. Where more than 5 suppliers meet the minimum standard, those suppliers with the highest scores will proceed to the tender stage.

#### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: Yes

#### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

#### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

#### **II.2.14) Additional information**

To respond to this opportunity please click here:

<https://litmustms.co.uk/respond/2BD9M55V9X>

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## **Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information**

### **III.1) Conditions for participation**

#### **III.1.2) Economic and financial standing**

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

#### **III.1.3) Technical and professional ability**

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

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## **Section IV. Procedure**

### **IV.1) Description**

#### **IV.1.1) Type of procedure**

Restricted procedure

#### **IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)**

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

### **IV.2) Administrative information**

#### **IV.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate**

Date

14 March 2025

Local time

12:00pm

#### **IV.2.3) Estimated date of dispatch of invitations to tender or to participate to selected candidates**

7 April 2025

#### **IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted**

English

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.1) Information about recurrence**

This is a recurrent procurement: No

### **VI.2) Information about electronic workflows**

Electronic ordering will be used

Electronic invoicing will be accepted

Electronic payment will be used

### **VI.3) Additional information**

The contracting authority considers that this contract may be suitable for economic operators that are small or medium enterprises (SMEs). However, any selection of tenderers will be based solely on the criteria set out for the procurement. It will be the supplier's responsibility to obtain any necessary documents in order to submit a response by the closing date and time.

The contracting authority reserves the right not to award any or part of the contract which is the subject of this contract notice and reserves the right to terminate the procurement process at any time.

The contracting authority will not be liable for any costs incurred by those expressing an interest in tendering for this contract opportunity.

The contracting authority will consider variant bids, evaluating them (so far as the variant or the evaluation of the variant is in the opinion of the contracting authority practicable) on the same basis as a conforming bid, but shall not be obliged to accept any such bid in preference to a conforming bid even if the variant bid scores more highly. No variant will be considered unless the bidder simultaneously submits a conforming bid.

For more information about this opportunity, please visit the Delta eSourcing portal at:

<https://litmustms.co.uk/tenders/UK-UK-Huntingdon:-School-catering-services./2BD9M55V9X>

To respond to this opportunity, please click here:

<https://litmustms.co.uk/respond/2BD9M55V9X>

GO Reference: GO-202524-PRO-29301624

## **VI.4) Procedures for review**

### **VI.4.1) Review body**

ACES Academies trust

Brampton Road

Huntingdon

PE29 3BN

Email

[tenders@litmuspartnership.co.uk](mailto:tenders@litmuspartnership.co.uk)

Country

United Kingdom